

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSY-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 INT-05 IO-13 AID-05

/147 W

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R 231455Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8833

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

MAMEMBASSY TOKYO 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EWWT, MARR, MASS, PARM, PBOR, PLOS, IV

SUBJ: ABILITY OF WEST AFRICAN COASTAL STATES TO PATROL  
OFFSHORE FISHERIES

REF: (A) STATE 090967; (B) 77 ABIDJAN A-53

1. RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL A.

2. A. OFFSHORE FISHING IS A MODERATELY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF  
THE ECONOMY: THE IVORIAN CATCH IN A GOOD YEAR CAN BE AS HIGH  
AS 100,000 TONS AND AS LOW AS 60,000 TONS IN A BAD YEAR (96,000  
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TONS IN 1976). ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE CATCH IS FROM OFFSHORE  
WATERS. IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT, ABOUT 60,000 PERSONS (10  
PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE) ARE EMPLOYED IN SOME ASPECT OF THE  
FISHING INDUSTRY. 18,000 ARE ENGAGED IN OFFSHORE FISHING,  
11,000 IN INLAND AND LAGOON FISHING AND ABOUT 30,000 IN  
RELATED INDUSTRIES (MOSTLY SMALL SCALE SMOKING AND DRYING  
FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION). MOST OF THE CATCH IS CONSUMED

LOCALLY. FISH PROVIDES ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF ALL ANIMAL PROTEIN CONSUMED IN IVORY COAST, LAST YEAR TOTALLING 190,000 TONS. WITH FISH CONSUMPTION SO HIGH AND RISING AT AN AVERAGE OF 8 TO 10 PERCENT PER YEAR, THE IVORY COAST HAS BEEN IMPORTING MORE THAN HALF ITS TOTAL REQUIREMENTS SINCE 1975 AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE CATCH IS CONSUMED LOCALLY, 17,000 TONS WERE EXPORTED IN 1977. MOST OF THIS WAS PROCESSED TUNA AND SHRIMP IN EITHER CANNED OR FROZEN FORM. FOREIGN FISHING QUESTIONS HAVE LIMITED POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS.

3. B. POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE FISHING: THERE IS SOME POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE FISHING IN IVORY COAST WATERS, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS THERE IS FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES UP AND DOWN THE COAST. AS IS EXPLAINED IN THE REPAIR, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF IVORY COAST IS EXTREMELY NARROW AND UNDERWATER CURRENTS NEEDED TO PRODUCE PLANKTON AND FISH FOOD ARE LACKING. THUS, FISHING POTENTIAL IS MUCH MORE LIMITED IN IVORIAN WATERS THAN, FOR INSTANCE, OFF THE COASTS OF GUINEA, SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA. NEVERTHELESS, IVORY COAST IS IN THE PROCESS OF ENLARGING ITS OFFSHORE FISHING FLEET IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE NATIONAL CATCH. SEVERAL NEW VESSELS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, AND NOW, WITH SEVEN REFRIGERATED SEINERS, THE IVORY COAST FLEET IS ONE OF THE MOST MODERN IN BLACK AFRICA.

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4. C. IVORY COAST DOES NOT STRICTLY CONTROL OFFSHORE FISHING BY NATIONALITY. HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES THAT ALL VESSELS WHICH FISH IN IVORIAN WATERS OR USE PORT FACILITIES PAY LICENSE FEES, WHICH ARE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE SIZE AND TYPE OF VESSEL AND THE ACTIVITY ENGAGED IN. EMBASSY HAS ASKED THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCY, PECHEs MARITIMES ET LAGUNAIRES, FOR A BREAKDOWN OF LICENSE AND FEE REQUIREMENTS BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED IT. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD THIS INFORMATION ON RECEIPT. AS FAR AS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS ARE CONCERNED, IVORY COAST IS SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE SUCH ACCORDS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WILL ALLOW THE IVORIAN FLEET TO FISH IN NEIGHBORING AND FISHER WATERS. SO FAR, THE ONLY AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IS WITH SENEGAL, BUT THE IVORIANS HAVE APPROACHED MAURITANIA, SIERRA LEONE, GABON AND OTHERS ABOUT SIMILAR ACCORDS.

5. D. POACHING IN IVORIAN WATERS IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

6. E. PRINCIPAL NATIONS FISHING IVORIAN WATERS ARE,

IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, FRANCE AND SPAIN (BY FAR THE TWO LARGEST), MOROCCO, SENEGAL, USA, KOREA, JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

7. F. IVORY COAST CLAIMS A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN WATERS OFF ITS TERRITORY. ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD INCLUDE FISHING RIGHTS, THE MAJOR PROSPECT FOR IVORIAN GAINS IN THIS REGION IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE OFFSHORE OIL DEPOSITS.

8. G. IVORY COAST HAS NOT SEIZED ANY FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS.

9. H. ALTHOUGH THE IVORIANS DO NOT ACTIVELY POLICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFSHORE FISHING, THEY MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO DISCUSSING A COOPERATIVE VENTURE, ESPECIALLY IF IT COULD BE LINKED WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF FISHING COOPERATION SUCH AS RIGHTS TO FISH IN FOREIGN WATERS FOR THE IVORIAN FLEET. STEARNS

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